MINUTES

OF THE .

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Cahaba Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

PISGAH CHURCH,

Perry County, Alabama,

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday,

October 14th, 15th and 16th, 1885.

OFFICERS:

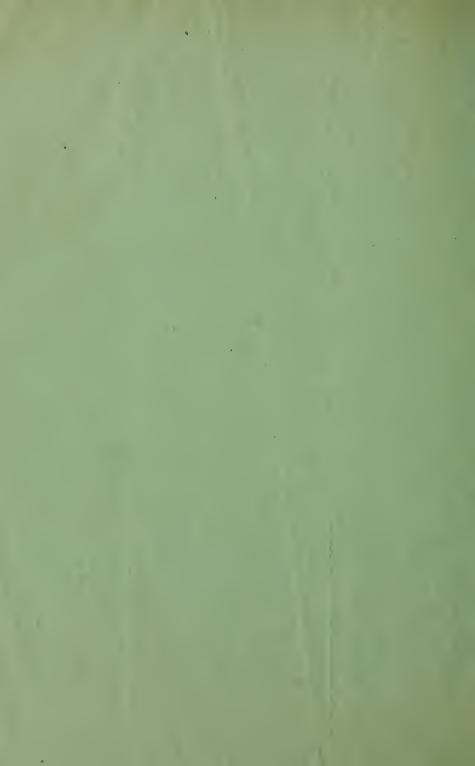
J. N. SUTTLE, - - Moderator, - - Centreville, Ala.

J. P. HARRIS, - - - CLERK, - - - Harrisburg, Ala.

ALFRED LAWSON, - - TREASURER, - - Marion, Ala.

MARION, ALA.:
MARION STANDARD JOB PRINT.

1885.



MINUTES.

PISGAH CHURCH, PERRY Co., ALA., Oct. 14, 1885.

- 1. The Cahaba Baptist Association convened in her Sixty-Eighth Annual Session with Pisgah Church, October 14th, 1885, at 11 o'clock, A. M. Introductory sermon preached by Rev. A. M. Perry, from Phillipians 10th verse and 12th chapter.
- 2. On motion of Bro. T. M. Bailey, Bro. J. N. Suttle was requested to act as Moderator for the organization of the Association.
- 3. Letters from the Churches were then called for, and Brethren T. M. Bailey and A. C. Davidson requested to read the same, when the following Brethren were enrolled as Messengers:
 - 4. Bethel-T. H. Logan and J. P. Harris.

Bethlehem-R. McKinley.

Concord—J. S. Bolling, J. Q. Harris, J. M. Watters and R. R. Richardson.

Ephesus—J. F. Morton.

Fellowship—H. T. Hood, W. S. Gray and J. L. Curb.

Friendship—S. M. Adams, F. A. Mitchell and J. B. Crow. Harmony—A. J. Ivey.

Hepsaba-J. W. Haggard and J. W. Goodger.

Hopewell.

Macedonia.

Mt. Gilead—C. J. Stewart, J. M. McCraw and T. D. Potts. Mars Hill.

Mt. Pleasant.

Mt. Hebron.

Mt. Zion—J. N. Suttle, J. C. Lea and W. J. Lightsey. Macon.

New Hope-J. S. Davis.

Newberne-G. S. Anderson.

Ocmulgee-L. M. Bradley, J. A. Weaver and O. H. Perry.

Oak Grove-E. S. White.

Pine Flat—E. P. George, A. J. Suther, J. F. Eubanks, T. J. Watters and R. O. Watters.

Pleasant Hill.

Pisgah—W. B. Jeffries, J. Y. Radford, J. M. Davis, T. Y. England and S. J. Fuller.

Sardis.

Siloam—T. M. Bailey, A. C. Davidson, P. King, A. Lawson, C. C. Huckabee and R. Frazer.

Union-P. P. Martin and H. T. Stringfellow.

5. Adjourned for dinner, with benediction from Bro. A. C. Davidson.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

- 6. Prayer by Rev. T. M. Bailey.
- 7. Invitation for membership was extended, when New Shiloh Church, through her messengers, R. Q. Pryor, W. T. Pearson and W. O. Perry, was received, and the right hand of fellowship was extended by Moderator.
- 8. On motion of Elder A. M. Perry, the officers for this session of the Association be elected by acclamation, and on motion of Bro. T. M. Bailey, Bro. J. N. Suttle was chosen Moderator; J. P. Harris, Clerk, and Alfred Lawson, Treasurer.
- 9. Moved by Bro. A. J. Ivey, that Elder H. R. Schramm be received as Corresponding Messenger from Eufaula Association, and Bro. J. A. Jones as Messenger from Unity Association.
 - 10. Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Devotional Exercises—The Deacons of Pisgah Church with their Pastor.

On Letters and Documen's—Brethren A. J. Ivey, T. Y. England and Jesse Fuller.

State of Religion in the Churches—Brethren A. C. Davidson, G. S. Anderson and L. M. Bradley.

On Woman's Work-G. S. Anderson, P. King and C. C. Huckabee.

- 11. Moved and concurred in that the various committees on Missions be read and discussed under one head at $9\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock on to-morrow morning.
- 12. Committee on Education being ready, read the following report, which was discussed by Brethren A. C. Davidson, T. M. Bailey, J. L. Curb, C. C. Huckabee and G. S. Anderson.
- Bro. A. C. Davidson, in some eloquent, forcible and feeling remarks, put forth the claims of the Baptist schools of Alabama, their working and results. Brethren T. M. Bailey, J. L. Curb, C. C. Huckabee and G. S. Anderson, earnestly and logically urged the claims of the common schools on the Baptists of Alabama, insisting that we did not utilize these associational meetings for the benefit of the common schools in the bounds of this Association, as we should, using many practical and forcible illustrations, which was adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Education widens the field of thought and prepares the mind for the duties and business of life. It gives the mind power to grasp grand ideas—the heart imbibes the glowing sentiments till it dilates, refines and inspires a greater, nobler being. It endows the man with magical powers. It gives a clear head, a bright imagination, a correct judgment and faithful memory. It widens the boundary of thought, and developes a talent for greater usefulness. True, high-finished education makes man the representative of his race, and he sways the minds and hearts of millions. It makes life the centre of that which is pure and bright, good and great—a magnet to lead others upon a higher plane and into nobler paths.

Science reveals to man the brighter side of his destiny—the brighter side of all things—and he sees the world redolent of beauty and glory, full of sunshine and flowers, of pleasant scenes and happy creatures, and smiles and laughter, (God's gifts designed for man's happiness; why not enjoy them?)

A correct knowledge of the sciences makes man the noblest work of God, and as the heart is educated, he becomes more and more like his God. Then educate—educate as high as possible; the higher the better, as it shows life to be not a fancied, but a real thing—a state of tutelage to prepare for a life purer, higher and more sublime than this. But the mental should not be developed at the expense of the physical; the powers of mind and body should be developed together.

There was an age in which the chief aim was physical development, followed by one, however, whose chief aim was mental culture. The one aimed at athlete giants; the other at mental prodigies. They were on the opposite sides of the truth. The ancient and modern conception of education should be combined, that the powers of mind and body may develope together. We need both muscle and brain.

And while the mind sparkles with gems of thought, let there be athletic limbs and laughing eyes and rosy checks. But to fill the sphere which the Lord has assigned us, a vigorous mind and a strong arm were not enough; there must be a pure heart. To transform, refine, elevate and purify character, the heart must be pure. Learning is now made to subserve the cause of truth. Eloquence, poetry, history, science, all conspire to defend, enrich, adorn and advance truth.

It is true "that great occasions make great men, and a truth yet more interesting that great men are made for great occasions," and are made great by a wise discipline of head and heart. There remains one thought of deep and peculiar interest—our sons and daughters—the pride of the country, the hope of the church. Where shall they be prepared to fill their sphere in society, state and church?

It is with pride and gratitude we point to Howard and Judson at home, yet of foreign excellencies. Among their sister institutions of learning, they hold a high and enviable position. Each one has for its principal a distinguished educator, aided by an able faculty. From their past success and present prospects, if you will graduate your children there, they will always be proud to say the Howard or the Judson is my Alma Mater. Respectfully submitted,

W. A. BISHOP, Chairman.

- 13. Bro. Bradley made partial report on devotional exercises, that Bro. G. S. Anderson preach at 7 o'clock to-night.
- 14. On motion of Bro. J. S. Bolling, that we do now adjourn until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Benediction by Bro. Davidson.

Morning Session, October 15th, 1885, 9 a. m.

- 15. Devotional Exercises, conducted by Bro. S. M. Adams.
- 16. Association called to order by Moderator. Prayer by Bro. A. M. Perry.

- 17. Minutes of yesterday read and adopted.
- 18. Resolution of Bro. G. S. Anderson: Resolved, that when this Association adjourns, it does so to meet on Wednesday after the first Sabbath in August, 1886. After considerable discussion from various brethren, the resolution was lost.
- 19. The report of the Committee on Foreign' Missions being ready, was read by J. N. Suttle; Home Missions read by S. M. 'Adams, State Missions read by A. C. Davidson. All were adopted, and discussed by T. M. Bailey, who opened the discussion of Missions, and made a very able and exhaustive argument in favor of the subject of Missions as a whole, and put the subject so strongly that open commendation was often heard on the ground.
- 20. The hour arriving for the Missionary Sermon, it was moved that an intermission of five minutes be taken, and then Bro. A. C. Davidson preached a very able, feeling and earnest sermon from Isaiah 53:4; after which, a collection was taken up and the sum of \$31.40 was received and paid to the Treasurer. Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

- 21. Association called to order by Moderator. Prayer offered by Robert Frazer.
- 22. On motion, the discussion on Missions was suspended for the Report on Indigent Ministers, which was read and adopted, and the committee requested to continue on same, with former instructions.
- 23. Discussion resumed on Mission Reports by G. S. Anderson, when they were severally taken up and adopted.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee having considered of this all important subject, beg leave to make the following report:

In Mexico the Board has fifteen missionaries and native assistants; received by letter and by baptism, 90; church members, 190; and the work is prospering.

In Brazil, we have 8 missionaries and native assistants; baptized during year, 37; schools, 40; church members, 113.

In Africa, we have fifteen missionaries and native assistants; baptized during year, 7; pupils, 195; church members, 125; contributions. \$120; and we have sent four new missionaries to Africa.

In China, the oldest mission station, (notwithstanding our work has been retarded by wars and rumors of wars,) still we have fifty-six missionaries and native assistants; baptized, 34; church members, 645; pupils, 145; contributions, \$567.87.

In Italy, 12 missionaries and native assistants; baptized, 35; church members, 250; contributions, \$42.00.

And besides these we have gratifying reports from Guatemala, Syria, Persia, Japan, India, Siam, Corea, and the Indians and Chinese in the West. We have sent out new laborers in the different fields for the year, and we have many reasons to thank God and take courage, that the glad tidings of great joy are being proclaimed in many lands, and the far off isles of the sea, to the pulling down of the strongholds of heathenism, and to the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God and his Christ.

We made donations last year for Foreign Missions, \$186.87; we are requested this year to give for Foreign Missions the sum of \$239.10. Your committee earnestly urge that this amount be raised by the churches of this Association. It can and must be done. Your committee recommend that some systematic plan be adopted by each church to raise these funds, and if this is done with energy, faithfulness and prayer, He, who has promised the reward, will surely bestow it, and we may rejoice at seeing more of the joys of His salvation.

Your committee would recommend that each church raise a committee, and charge such committee with this work, upon which depends the spread of the Gospel by the Baptists.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee present the following report:

The object of the Home Mission Board is to supply the destitute places in the Southern States with Baptist preaching, (or in other words, with the Gospel.) And when we think of the General Association of Texas, in the northern part of the State, embracing a territory as large as the States of Georgia and Alabama, which is rapidly settling up with white people. It is estimated that not less than one hundred thousand people move into this district every year. Assuming that five hundred will be a sufficient number for a congregation, this emigration adds annually two hundred such congregations to the destitution already existing. The destitution in Louisiana is fully equal to that in Texas, Bro. Landrum informs us in 1884, in words like this: Remember twenty-five parishes without a Baptist preach-

er! Six hundred thousand souls in South Louisiana without the Gospel! And by thousands people are emigrating to our own loved State. They come with their scepticism and mormonism, and these will occupy every place that is not occupied by the true Gospel of God. In view of these facts, and the little that we are doing, let us pray God to humble us in the dust, and lead us to repentance for idleness and covetousness, and put us to work.

Respectfully submitted, S. M. ADAMS, Chairman,

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

From the circular sent out by the Corresponding Secretary, the following facts are gathered: The Board has had eightyone men in its service for the whole or part of the year. These
men have labored in sixty counties. The results have been very
gratifying, and call for devout thanksgiving to God. They
baptized during the year 919 persons; received into the churches from all sources, 1,402; constituted 13 churches; finished six
meeting houses, and commenced work on a number of others.
Besides preaching, holding prayer meetings, visiting the people,
a great though silent influence has been exerted by the Corresponding Secretary, together with these earnest, consecrated toilers, that can only be estimated at the last day. Influences of
many kinds have been set in motion. All the departments of
Christian activity have been quickened, and our denomination
all over the State has been blessed.

The Board desires to expend this convention year, twelve thousand dollars. We are asked to raise \$575 of that amount. Your committee recommend that each church set apart a certain time for making a contribution to this work, and that as far as possible, every member have an opportunity to give something.

Our people need the Gospel, and a wide door is opened to us. Let us enter in and fulfill, as far as we may, the last command of the dying Redeemer: "Preach the Gospel to every creature"

- 24. Robert Frazer, President of the Judson, was requested to address the Association on the advantages of the Institution, which is in a flourishing condition, such as it never was before.
- 25. Committee on Temperance not having any report to read, was excused from making report, and the subject was discussed openly by R. P. McCullough, L. M. Bradley and S. M. Adams, when further discussion of the subject was limited to five min-

utes, when G. S. Anderson, H. R. Schramm and C. C. Huckabee brought forth many reasons why we should refrain from intoxicating liquors.

A committee, composed of G. S. Anderson, H. R. Schramm and L. M. Bradley, was requested to prepare a report on Temperance, to be inserted in the Minutes.

26. Moved that we do now adjourn until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Benediction by A. C. Davidson.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION, 9 O'CLOCK.

- 27. Association called to order by Moderator.
- 28. Prayer by Bro. L. M. Bradley.
- 29. The Committee on Temperance being ready, made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Whiskey is the world's crime, and should be outlawed by the nations. It is the bane of society, the curse of morality, and the stumbling block of religion. It degrades this life, and destroys that which is to come. It crowds our jails, penitentiaries and almshouses, and fills the ranks of vice. No language will portray its evils. Our prayers, our labors, our influence, our means, should be given for its overthrow. We would urge the enactment of laws, and a persistent and earnest appeal to the force of those already existing, for its expulsion from our land.

Respectfully submitted,

G. S. ANDERSON, Chairman.

30. Report on Denominational Literature was read by J. P. Harris. A letter from J. G. Harris, of the Alabama Baptist, was read in connection by G. S. Anderson, and the subject discussed by G. S. Anderson, L. M. Bradley, A. J. Ivey and J. N. Suttle, in a very able and eloquent manner, showing to the Association the kind of literature that is now flooding our country, and the evil results that will follow. Report adopted.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Denominational Literature beg leave to report:

We would recommend, above all books and periodicals, the Holy Bible, for in that we find, from the prophecies of the Old Testament to the writings of the Apostles in the New, plain Baptist doctrine.

In the greater part of the journals of this day, there is very little healthy and wholesome matter to be brought into our families.

In the rural districts there are but few papers taken of any kind as help to strengthen the mind and improve the morals and create a religious growth, and the most that are taken are filled with sensational stories that furnish the mind with anything else except religion and good morals. Man is wicked enough as he is, without his wandering away from right and truth; therefore, we should strive to place in the hands of our young people such literature as would lead them to Christ; and we would also recommend the Alabama Baptist and Baptist Magazine to the favorable consideration of every family in all our associational territory.

31. Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools was read by A. M. Perry, and discussed by J. S. Bolting, H. R. Schramm, G. S. Anderson and A. C. Davidson. Adopted.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that most of our churches are having magnificent schools. We would urge all of our churches to keep up schools. There has been an increase of schools since our last Associational Meeting in 1884. Number of Sabbath School scholars last reported, 600; number for 1885, 700.

Your committee would recommend Kind Words, published by S. Boykin, Macon, Ga., or the publications of the American Baptist Society. There are other cheap and unsound periodieals, such as David Cook. We should watch all unsound literature that is still flooding our land.

We, your committee, dislike union Sabbath Schools or union literature; we, as a Baptist, have as good as the world can produce. We see some of our Sabbath Schools are using the M. E. Sabbath School hymn book. Let pastors see to that. Let us apply to our own publications for such books and Sabbath School literature as is needed in our schools.

We, your committee, feel it is a gradual compromise on our part to buy from others.

We see from a report from the Unity Sabbath School Convention that it was best for each denomination to use its own literature.

- 32. P. King was allowed to address the Association on Ministerial Education, when the sum of \$202.00 was raised in cash and promises for that mission.
- 33. On motion of Rev. G. S. Anderson, the speakers the remainder of this session were limited to two minutes.

Report of Committee on Woman's Work was read by G. S. Anderson and adopted.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

The influence of woman has never been properly appreciated in the ages past. Degradation has characterized her universal experience except where the truth of Christ has elevated her to her true sphere. The economy of Christ gives her being, individuality, and a place where her cravings of nature are gratified, where her talents can be profitably used, and where her influence may be signally exerted and blessed. That woman has a high place in the Kingdom of God was demonstrated in the close proximity of the lives of the three Marys to the life of Jesus himself. That she is capable of exerting a great influence, was illustrated in the labors of Doreas and Lydia. That they should be organized, is evident from the Scriptural orders of widows and deaconesses mentioned in the Word of God.

That the Baptist women of Alabama can perform a greater work than is now being accomplished, is argued from the great success attending the labors of our sisters in other States, where woman's work has been organized and properly prosecuted.

The last State Convention, at Tuskegee, adopted a plan for the prosecution of this work. It was recommended that all the churches organize Women Societies, and co-operate one with another through the Central Committee located in the city of Montgomery.

We hope the sisters in the churches will organize and engage in this work, and report the same through letters to the Association. Those desiring directions and full information with regard to the work, will receive the same by addressing Mrs. M. C. Davis, Corresopnding Secretary Woman's Central Committee, Montgomery, Alabama.

The good work now being occomplished, of which there is much we cannot summarize, as it was not mentioned in the letters.

Respectfully submitted,
G. S. ANDERSON, Chairman.

34. Report of Committee on Nomination read and adopted.

REPORT ON NOMINATION.

Your Committee beg leave to submit the following:

Place of the next meeting of this body be with the Friendship Church; time, Wednesday after the 2nd Sanday in Oct., 1886.

To preach the introductory sermon, Dr. A. C. Davidson;

alternate, Rev. W. A. Bishop.

Missionary Sermon, Thursday, at 11 A, M., by Rev. G. S. Anderson; alternate, Rev. A. M. Perry.

J. A. FULLER, Chairman.

35. Report on Letters and Documents read and adopted.

REPORT ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

After examining the letters from the different churches, we are glad to report that we find them with more of the missionary spirit in them; their contributions are larger, and they appear to have done more work than last year. In comparing the amounts sent up for missions this year with the finance report of last year, we find the amount about double. We find also that Pleasant Hill Church asks for a letter of dismission, that it may unite with another Association, and we respectfully recommend that it be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Y. ENGLAND, A. J. IVEY, JESSE FULLER,

- 36. *Bro. Jesse M. Heard presented a statistical report of the increase and decrease of the membership of this Association since 1837 to 1884, and asked that the same be inserted in the Minutes, when the years 1862, 3, 4, 5 and 1870 be obtained.
- 37. The Moderator appointed the following standing committees:

Foreign Missions—Porter King, A. J. Ivey, N. H. Thompson.

Home Missions—S. M. Adams, Robt. Pryor, E. P. George. State Missions—G. S. Anderson, J. S. Bolling, I. H. Huff.

Sunday Schools-C. C. Huckabee, J. L. Curb, J. N. C. Brown.

Education-Robert Frazer, O. H. Perry, E. S. White.

Denominational Literature—A. C. Davidson, J. W. Haggard, W. W. Smith.

Finance—E. P. George, T. D. Potts, J. A. Fuller.

Temperance—L. M. Bradley, J. A. Kennington, J. M. Watters.

State of Religion in Churches-J. B. Lovelace, G. S. Anderson, S. M. Adams.

Woman's Work-W. W. Wilkerson, J. N. C. Brown, H. T. Stringfellow.

- 38. Moved by Porter King, that the thanks of this Association be heartily tendered Pisgah Church and vicinity for the kind hospitality given this session of the Association.
- 39. Moved that Bro. Anderson be requested to report this Association to the Alabama Baptist for publication.
- 40. Finance Committee made the following report, which was adopted:
 - 41. The Treasurer made the following report:
- 42. Moved that we do now adjourn without appointing a day for the next meeting of this Association.

J. N. SUTTLE, Moderator.

J. P. HARRIS, Clerk.

*The Statistics in No. 35 not being complete, is omitted.

The Treasurer's Report and the Report on Indigent Ministers, having been misplaced, are omitted.

Finance Report

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